

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada et al (US Patent No. 5,485,406) in view of Hofelt, Jr. et al. (US Patent No, 3,914,907). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that a plurality of radial points are measured in different locations about a circumference of the tire, in each of several circumferential planes. The circumferential planes correspond to tread lugs. Then a radial low point is determined for each circumferential plane. The virtual tread profile is then determined from the radial low points. The Wada reference teaches an apparatus and method to detect the tread profile of a tire by calculating the radius from X and Y data. Wada further teaches calculating the radius from the arithmetic means. Wada is silent as to determining the radial points at several different locations for several circumferential planes and then determining a radial low point at each circumferential location, and further determining a virtual tread profile from the radial low points. Wada is further silent to removing tread rubber from the tire to shape the tire to match the virtual tread profile and is otherwise silent as to how to correct radial runout. As none of the cited references alone or combination suggests the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

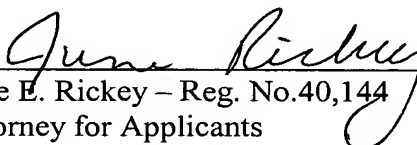
Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 7 and 8.

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In light of this amendment, all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application are allowable. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



June E. Rickey – Reg. No. 40,144
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-3328
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018